

International



Newsletter

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Mayor's Office, City of Houston

Office of International Affairs & Development



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Message from the Mayor

During the past month, we were honored to receive many high-level international delegations from around the globe. I want to take this opportunity to recognize some of our esteemed guests, such as His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka; the Honorable Mike Oquaye, Minister of Technology of Ghana; the Honorable Jean-David Levitte, Ambassador of France to the United States; and the Honorable Raymond Bisset, Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Scotland.



Bill White

We also hosted delegations from the Czech Republic and China. It is always my great pleasure to share with you various internationally-related activities that we as a city undertake, and I am proud to introduce this month's issue of our *International Newsletter*.

Bill White, Mayor

Message from the Director

Each month we receive numerous encouragement and support letters from the community. To cite just one:

"Thanks again for your leadership in arranging a special meeting for our Shanghai delegation. Members were complimentary of the City's energy strategy and departed with helpful information to secure long term supply in China."

Cherie Laughlin

Public Affairs, Bayer Industrial Park



Helen T. Chang

We will continue to serve the community with great pride.

Thank you,

Helen T. Chang, Director

October 2006 Highlights

The Classical Czech Concert

Artists from the United States, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Spain and Mexico, were all represented at the Classical Czech Composers Concert, which was held on September 7th at the Czech Cultural Center in Houston. This non-profit educational and cultural organization hosted the concert in memory of a Texas statesman and Czech Center supporter, the Honorable Judge J.C. Zbranek.

Drawing more than 50 guests, this event was a great opportunity to promote intercultural relations and strengthen interaction between Houstonians of different cultural backgrounds.

- By Adina Popescu



Musical performances at the Czech Center

Did You Know?

The Czech Cultural Center in Houston has existed since 2004 and provides a forum for lectures, concerts, exhibits and private gatherings. It annually awards three educational scholarships, provides a museum, archives, a library and genealogy research facilities.

Source: *Czech Cultural Center of Houston*



Dr. Ibrahim Guider

Director General of the Arab Labor Organization Discusses Challenges

The Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Houston Partnership hosted the Director General of the Arab Labor Organization, Dr. Ibrahim Guider, at a private roundtable discussion on September 5th.

Dr. Guider addressed the challenges facing the education and labor systems in Libya and the Middle East at large, one of the most significant of which is the gap between labor demands and the supply of educated and trained workers. He emphasized the need to further develop the education system and prepare the region to meet new labor demands from foreign investments.

Special Thanks

*Article submitted by the Bilateral US- Arab
Chamber of Commerce*

Did You Know?

Dr. Guider is the fourth Director General of the Arab Labor Organization. The organization's goals are to promote the participation of governments, employers and workers organizations in labor/worker affairs. It also seeks equal opportunities and social justice for the Middle East and North Africa.

Submitted by the Bilateral US- Arab Chamber of Commerce

Ghanaian Minister Visits Houston

On September 6th, the Greater Houston Partnership hosted a roundtable discussion focusing on Ghana as a burgeoning economic force in the West African region. According to Professor Mike Oquaye, Ghana's Minister of Communications and Technology, Ghana's strong legal tradition, educated workforce and growing information technologies sector make it the ideal partner for outsourcing ventures by foreign companies. These attributes have led many to suggest that Ghana may soon become the "Bangalore of West Africa."



Ghanaian Minister of Communications and Technology discusses Ghana's economic strengths

Special Thanks

Article submitted by the Greater Houston Partnership

Did You Know?

Ghana gained its independence in 1957 and was the first sub-Saharan country in colonial Africa to do so. Its judicial system is modeled on English common law and customary law.

Source: *CIA World Factbook*



Guests enjoyed music by a mariachi band

Mexican Institute of Greater Houston Hosts Gala de Independencia

On Saturday, September 9th, the Mexican Institute of Greater Houston held its "2006 Gala de la Independencia." The event included many exciting activities, beginning with an award ceremony saluting leaders in the local Hispanic community, and ending with dancing to the exhilarating tropical sounds of Grupo Ka-Ché.

The Institute's annual gala honors the achievements of individuals and institutions that benefit Houston's Hispanic community through contributions to education, health and technology. This year's *Individual Community Commitment Award* was granted to Dr. Max Castillo, President of the University of Houston Downtown, and the *Institution Community Commitment Award* was presented to the Houston Community College System.

- By Tiffany Ching

Did You Know?

The Mexican Institute of Greater Houston started with one Community Learning Center in February 2002 and has since opened 102 centers. Where 4,317 parents were enrolled at the schools; 3,316 participants received certificates of completion.

Source: *Mexican Institute of Greater Houston*

Petrobras and Astra Celebrate Merger

On September 19th, two major players in the petrochemical area – the Brazilian Petrobras and Astra Oil Company -- held a private reception at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts to celebrate their joint ownership of the Pasadena Refinery System, Inc. Petrobras purchased 50% participation in the Pasadena refinery from Astra. Jose Sergio Gabrielli de Azevedo, Chief Executive Officer of Petrobras, and Mike Winget, Chief Executive Officer of Astra, along with many others joined the festivities as the two companies began their joint business venture.

The Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce hosted the *Petrobras' Business Plan 2007-2011* luncheon on September 20th where Gabrielli de Azevedo appeared as a guest speaker. He discussed Petrobras' strategic plan to increase production capacity as well as improve the quality of refined products. Additionally, there was discussion of increased international investments in West Africa, the Gulf of Mexico and Latin America.

-By Tiffany Ching and Michelle Kneeland



Petrobras President Jose Sergio Gabrielli de Azevedo addresses members of the Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce

Did You Know?

Around 65% of the area of Petrobras' offshore exploration blocks is under water at depths of more than 400 meters. In recent years the company has increased its exploration drilling activities in increasingly deep water.

Source:

<http://www2.petrobras.com.br/portal/ingles/petrobras.htm>



Delegation from Zibo City, China

Chinese Delegations Seek Houston's Expertise

During the month of September, Houston was active in receiving international delegations from all over the world, particularly from China.

On September 19th, the City of Houston was honored to host Vice Mayor Liu of Zibo City, China. As Zibo is a city with a significant petrochemical industry base, the delegation has taken a keen interest in learning about Houston and its experience in building up one of the world's largest petrochemical complexes.

Houston also received a high-level management delegation from China National Packaging Corporation that sought firsthand knowledge about the City of Houston's large-scale recycling operations and logistics. After a day of comprehensive site visits to the various City Department of Solid Waste recycling plants, the delegation visited the Houston-based Eagle Global Logistics, a U.S. Fortune-500 logistics corporation.

-By David Chang

Did You Know?

Zibo City is the present-day location of the ancient town of Linzi. In 2004, FIFA officially recognized Zibo City as the origin of the sport we know as soccer today, with archaeological evidence excavated near the city.

China National Packing Corp. is one of the largest shipping companies in China.

Source: *Information Office of Zibo Municipal Government*

www.houstontx.gov/moiad

Houston Welcomes Sri Lankan President

On September 21st, Mayor Pro-Tem of Houston, Michael Berry, Mrs. Nandita Berry and a large gathering of the Houston Sri Lankan American community welcomed the President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, and First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa at the Houston Buddhist Vihara Temple. President Rajapaksa was on a private visit and took this opportunity to attend a Buddhist religious ceremony in the shrine hall and plant a tree to commemorate his visit to Houston.

Mayor Pro-Tem Michael Berry also addressed the gathering. He instantly established a rapport with the audience by greeting them with the traditional Sri Lankan greeting of “Ayubowan” and “Vannakam.” He thanked the President for his visit to Houston and wished him well.

Special Thanks

Kanishka Desilva, Sri Lankan American Association



Mayor Pro- Tem Michael Berry greeting His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa

Did You Know?

Sri Lanka’s population is highly educated with a literacy rate of 96%-- one of the highest rates in South Asia. This rate can mainly be attributed to the free education system initiated by the late C.W.W. Kannangara, who is referred to as the “Father of Free Education.”

Source: www.wikipedia.org

State of the State Address

The Greater Houston Partnership hosted an event for Governor Rick Perry on September 28th in the Intercontinental Hotel. Senators, elected representative, the Attorney General, and members of the Houston business and cultural community gathered to listen to Governor Perry’s State of the State Address. Governor Perry discussed key issues about Texas and its economic challenges. His address focused on the some priorities of the current Texas government--education, transportation, public safety, taxes and healthcare.

-By Adina Popescu



Governor Rick Perry addressing guests at the State of the State

Did You Know?

Texas ranked third in the nation for ‘insourced’ jobs—positions created by the direct investment of overseas companies in the United States (behind California & New York)

Source: *Houston Business Journal*

Upcoming Major Event Spotlights

On October 2nd, Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, who has distinguished herself through her involvement in the development of her country, will be a guest speaker at the Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall. Queen Noor's speech is the first in the "Brilliant Lecture Series," designed to inspire a wide audience, particularly youth. For more information, please contact (713) 355-2525.

Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan

The National All-American Business Alliance Conference

The National All American Business Alliance (NAABA) will hold a business conference on October 5th at the Houston Community College Auditorium on Main Street. NAABA's objectives include finding contract opportunities and serving as a networking hub for its members. For more information, please contact (832) 615-3072.

On October 9th, the Iraqi Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Samir Shakir Mahmood Sumaida'ie, will offer his unique perspective on Iraq's future at a lecture sponsored by the Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce. The event will take place at the Houstonian Hotel on North Post Oak Lane. For more information, please contact (713) - 880-8168.

Iraq: the Ambassador's Perspective

State of the Senate Address

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson will present her State of the Senate Address on October 10th. The event is sponsored by the Greater Houston Partnership and will take place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Louisiana Street. For more information, please contact (713) 844-3682.

Upcoming Major Event Spotlights

James T. Edmonds, Chairman of the Port of Houston Authority, will speak on October 19th at the InterContinental hotel on the regional economic impacts of the highly anticipated Bayport Cruise and Container Terminal. For more information, please contact (713) 844-3658.

State of the Port Address

16th Annual Turkish Festival

On October 28th, the American Turkish Association of Houston will hold its 16th Annual Turkish Festival at Jones Plaza in downtown Houston. The festival caters to the young and old and will feature food, presentations and entertainment celebrating Turkey's unique history and culture. For more information, please visit www.atahouston.org.

On October 29th, the University of Houston will host the 2006 Partnership Walk, benefiting the Aga Khan Foundation. The theme for this year's walk is "Diversity is Strength," which highlights the Aga Khan Foundation's belief that pluralism is the cornerstone of peace, security and development. For more information, please contact (281) 879-1661.

Partnership Walk 2006

Future of the Gulf Coast Refining Industry Conference

The 2006 Refining Conference, entitled "The Future of the Gulf Coast Refining Industry," will be held on Friday November 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Louisiana Street. The keynote speaker will be Doug Terreson, Managing Director of Morgan Stanley, Inc., who will speak about the conditions of the Gulf Coast Refinery Industry. For more information, please contact (713) 743-4895.

www.houstontx.gov/moiad

Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council (MIADC)

MIADC-Middle East/ North Africa

The Mayor's International Affairs and Development Council for the Middle East and North Africa (MIADC / MENA) consists of 25 members. The members reflect a diversity of cultures, sweeping from North Africa to the Caspian Sea to the Persian Gulf, and share a desire to represent the economic and cultural interests of their respective communities on the Houston scene. In order to meet those goals, members have initiated several projects, including the planning of a town hall meeting to discuss community concerns and explore economic opportunities between Houston and MENA countries.



Dr. Ahmed Rabie, owner and president of Eumana Home Dialysis, Inc., is chair of MIADC / MENA. Dr. Rabie is active in the MENA community, in the past serving on the Mayoral Advisory Board for International Affairs and Development, and as vice president of the Arab American Cultural and Community Center. Dr. Rabie is currently an advisor to the Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the board of the Arab-American Medical Association, in addition to other notable involvements.



Dr. Rami Shaffiee, professor of economics at North Harris College, is chair-elect of MIADC/ MENA. Dr. Shafiee earned degrees from universities in Iran, Michigan and Texas. His professional career reflects service in both the public and the private sector; he is the principal of Shafiee and Associates (a training and consulting organization for international executives) and has lent his experience to various development initiatives such as a ten-year strategic plan for South Montgomery County, Texas.



Mr. Imad Abdullah, principal of Landmark Architects, Inc., is elected secretary of MIADC/ MENA. Mr. Abdullah, who received his degree in architecture from the University of Houston, has had a long history of service to the local community. Mr. Abdullah has been actively involved in the MENA community, serving as past president and founding member of the Arab American Cultural and Community Center, and former member of the 'Awty International School.'

MIADC-MENA Other Council Members

Dr. Raouf Arafat	Dr. Tarek Hussein	Dr. Rezik Sager	Mr. Ike Zach
Ms. Aida Araissi	Ms. Arza Funk	Mr. Farouk Shami	Dr. George Zaibaq
Mr. Dogan Baysal	Dr. Hamid Kantara	Dr. Zin Smati	Ms. Rand Zalzala
Mr. Mohammed Boughaba	Mr. Nagib Mustafa	Ms. Najla Tanous	
Mr. Abdel Elkhadiri	Dr. George Nassar	Mr. Jerry Wische	
Mr. Deya Elyas	Mr. Mourhaf Sabouni	Mr. Lee Wunsch	

Sister City Spotlight – Tampico, Mexico

This month, the International Newsletter continues to showcase one of Houston's 16 sister cities from around the globe with a closer look at each distinctive locale. This month we feature Tampico.

Houston established a sister city relationship with Tampico, Mexico, in 2003. Present-day Tampico was founded with the granting of its formal charter in 1824, although an earlier settlement, known as Tampico Alto, was founded by Spain in 1554. The name "Tampico" is believed to be of Hustaec origin: *tam-piko*, meaning "place of otters." The city is surrounded by rivers and lagoons, which were once home to a large population of otters.

With a population of 800,000 in the greater metropolitan area, Tampico is the Gulf of Mexico's main economic powerhouse. The city lies in a rich petroleum-producing region; it is one of the chief commercial centers of northeastern Mexico and one of the country's most important seaports. Although oil is the primary export of the port of Tampico, it also is a major exporter of silver, copper, lumber, wool, hemp, and other agricultural products.



Tampico, one of Houston's sixteen sister cities, glistens in the sunlight.

Tampico is also an important part of Mexico's commercial history. Mexican commercial aviation began in 1921 when the first flight from Mexicana took off from Tampico's airport to the Mexico City International Airport. In 1926, the first Coca-Cola bottling plant in Mexico was built in Tampico.

Houston and Mexico have extensive business, cultural and educational ties. In 2005, Mexico was the top seaborne trading partner of Houston, with trade valued at more than \$10.8 billion while air cargo trade with Mexico was valued at \$367.4 million. According to *Business Houston-Gateway to Global Markets 2006*, at least 97 Houston area firms have offices in Mexico and at least 47 Mexican firms have offices in Houston.

The Houston-Tampico Sister City Association helps build long-term relationships between Houston and Tampico by sponsoring a variety of activities. Among their many programs, the association has hosted a photo exhibit "Historic Tampico: The Birth of Mexico's Oil Industry" in Houston and Dallas and will soon sponsor the exhibit in Tampico. It also co-sponsors the "Promotoras" seminar in which health care workers from Tampico share a program for health promotion among disadvantaged patients with Houston public health workers. In addition, Tampico will host the thirteenth US-Mexico Border Energy Forum on October 19-20, 2006.

For more information about the sister city association and their activities, please contact the Houston Protocol International Alliance at (713) 227-3395
or protocol@ghcvb.org

Special Thanks

*Article submitted by Alma Maldonado,
Houston International Protocol
Alliance.*

Meet the Consular Corps in Houston

Colombia

This month we focus on South America and speak with the Honorable Maria Cristina Chirolla, Colombian Consul General in Houston, to discuss everything from international trade fairs to tourism.



*Consul General
Chirolla*

Tucked between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, Colombia is the only South American country with port access to both coastlines. A country known not only for its natural resources but also for its rich history and culture, and Consul General Maria Christina Chirolla is proud to represent her country in Houston.

Although the Consul General is new to the Houston community, she has emphasized that she is aware of the importance of Houston around the world. “When many Colombians think of Houston, they think of a close neighbor; one that is not only physically close, but a neighbor that is close to their hearts,” Chirolla said. She believes that the Houston-Colombian relationship would profit from forging stronger multilateral ties in the areas of tourism, agriculture, oil, shipping, and trade.

The Consulate General of Colombia, which was established in the 1960s, serves approximately 140,000 Colombian citizens residing in the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. The consular services provided by the Consulate extend from administrative and legal assistance to the development and implementation of programs related to commerce and culture. One notable program is “Columbia Nos Une” (Columbia Unites Us), which was designed by the Colombian Ministry of External Relations to promote the continued solidarity among Colombians in Houston and throughout the world.

The Colombian consulate--with the assistance from the Colombian Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Tourism and Pro-Export--has also been promoting trade relations

between Houston and Colombia through international trade fairs called “Macroruedas de Negocios con EEUU.” 1,300 Colombian exporters and approximately 500 buyers attended one such fair, held in the City of Cartagena de Indias. As a result, about 10,000 business agreements were registered by the end of the trade fair with an approximate value of \$180 million, which included short- and medium-term contracts.

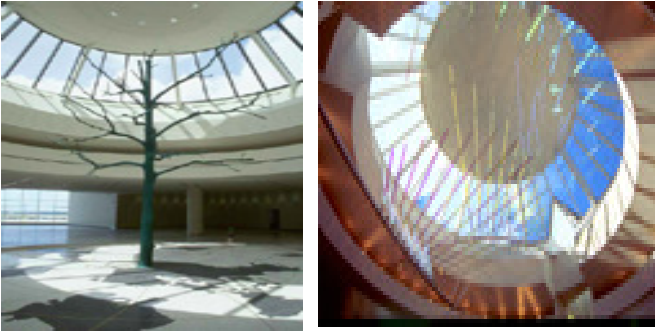


Map of Colombia

Consul General Maria Cristina Chirolla is enthusiastic about the future of Houston-Colombian relations. “Colombia is a rich country in every manner, and has much to offer an international city such as Houston,” she said. With direct flights from Houston to the cities of Bogotá and Cali, and the Port of Houston promising to broaden opportunities by connecting to Colombian ports, the future for increased cooperation looks bright, Consul Chirolla said.

-By Michelle Kneeland

International Hub: Houston Arts Alliance



The City of Houston has a vibrant arts community and is known around the world for its wide array of cultural activities. Three of the City's major civic organizations—the Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County, the Municipal Arts Commission and the Civic Art Committee —merged in August 2006 to form the Houston Arts Alliance.

Discussions among the three organizations about the best method to manage the process through which the City of Houston acquires art for its collection had begun six months ago, and subsequently expanded to include the best methods for the City to leverage its arts organizations, which shape the culture of the city.

“This merger will make the arts more visible in Houston and to tourists, and should also ease artists’ difficulty navigating the area’s public-art programs,” said Mr. Joe Wilson, interim Executive Director of the Houston Arts Alliance. “Now these artists have only one entity to approach, and we liaison with the City.”

The Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County has been the independent, non-profit agency responsible for awarding grants to arts groups and artists with funding from the City’s hotel-occupancy tax. Composed of volunteers appointed by Houston’s mayor, the Municipal Art Commission advised City Council on artworks on city property.

Also a volunteer group, the Civic Art Committee developed an annual civic art program. The new Houston Arts Alliance absorbed members from all three groups to form a 33-member board of directors.

“Through its contract with the City of Houston to distribute the hotel occupancy tax dollars, the Alliance supports some of the city’s largest festival events including the Bayou City Art Festival, the Houston International Festival, the Art Car Parade, the International Film Festival and the Chocolate Bayou Festival,” Mr. Wilson said.

A major mission of the Alliance is the marketing of the arts to enhance Houston’s image as an international arts community. The Alliance has awarded programming grants to ethnic organizations in Houston’s Indian, Asian, Pacific Island, Eastern European and Central and South American communities. Festivals sponsored by these communities have been attracting close to two million attendees every year.

The goals of the Alliance include the management and conservation of the City’s art collection, cultural education of children and the general public, and outreach to business and education communities. The impact of the recently-merged organization on the Houston’s arts community seems immensely promising.

-By Mary Jane Wakefield

with excerpts from the Houston Chronicle, August 2006

Did You Know?

The City of Houston owns more than 400 public works of art, ranging from paintings to grand monuments. Approximately 110 pieces of the collection are outdoors.

Connections Across the Globe: Houston Airport System

On any given night, when most consumers are fast asleep, a parade of various cargo-moving large-haul vehicles take over the streets of Houston as they transport any number of products from across the globe into the fourth-largest city in the United States. These vehicles are part of a global network that incorporates air, sea, rail and road transportation systems, operating day and night, on the principle of supply and demand.

Most consumers take the global cargo network for granted, but for the cargo community and the retailers that depend on them, this is not an option. A delay of minutes could amount to millions of dollars in lost revenue. "We don't want to be in the position where the customer comes in and can't find the item because it is not available," Kaith Morris, community affairs manager for the logistics group of the world's largest retailer, Wal-Mart, said.

"The timeliness and reliability of suppliers and, most importantly, the infrastructure they have in place, are of vital significance to the retailer's operations," Morris said. Ted Jeude, director of operations for Foxconn Communications & Network Solutions Business Group in Houston and former director of Compaq, is familiar with this concept. Taiwan-based Foxconn recruited Jeude roughly two years ago and since then, has seen business at its Houston operation grow in excess of 400 percent. The majority of this growth is due to the production restructuring Jeude implemented, he said.

Thanks to improved air and freight-forwarding services implemented by Jeude, cargo imports from China that used to take up to four days to arrive in Houston now take between 32 and 48 hours. Jeude is certain additional time can be salvaged.

Currently, imports from China are delivered via cargo aircraft to Dallas and then trucked down to Foxconn in Houston. Exports destined for Asia are trucked up to Dallas and then flown out to their final destinations.

"Our business is not in Dallas. Direct air service to Houston would cut 24 hours out of this cycle," Jeude said.

Foxconn and Jeude are pushing for increased international air service to and from Houston's largest airport, George Bush Intercontinental. With already existing service to 76 international destinations, IAH is the fourth-fastest growing airport in the world and the 10th largest international gateway in the United States.



Most products are part of the global market and must pass through warehouses such as this one.

"It's exciting; it reminds me of Compaq in 1984, '85 and '86," Jeude said. "The growth, the enthusiasm, the can-do-attitude is very exciting."

Special Thanks

Article submitted by Juan M. Alanis, Houston Airport System

Did You Know?

George Bush Intercontinental Airport's (IAH) cargo area can accommodate up to 20 wide body aircraft simultaneously and can handle more than 500,000 metric tons of air cargo annually. IAH has plans to significantly increase its cargo facilities and its international air cargo service network to and from Houston over the next several years.

Submitted by Juan M. Alanis, Houston Airport System

The Global Bridge: Taiwan Chamber of Commerce

Each month the International Newsletter features “the Global Bridge” section, which introduces various local chambers of commerce dedicated to promoting Houston’s international image.



Frank Fung, President of the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce

The Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (TCC) was formed in May 30, 1987, by a group of local businessmen. Currently, the Chamber has approximately 300 members, who represent a wide spectrum of areas such as accounting, banking, computer retail, construction, insurance, international trade and real estate investments.

The mission of the Chamber is to provide networking and advanced management skills for its members. Chamber activities include business seminars, investment symposiums and after-hour networking. A monthly newsletter lists scheduled activities of the Chamber as well as provides information on business opportunities for its members.

Community service and stewardship major functions of the Chamber. At least once a year, the Chamber invites Taiwan’s leading cultural performing groups, such as traditional Taiwanese opera, to Houston to perform. TCC plays an important role in the Taiwanese community by preserving and promoting the Taiwanese heritage and culture.

In 1993, the Chamber paved the way for the first bilingual Chinese and English street signs in Houston. The bilingual signs not only help the community read street signs in their native Chinese language but also promote the uniqueness of Houston’s Southwest Chinatown area to the general population. TCC has worked with the University of Houston’s business school.

The Chamber provides internship opportunities in the specially-designed TMBA program, which provides students with hands-on experience in the business world.

Giving back and working with the mainstream community is an important activity of the Chamber. Since 1998, the Chamber has worked closely with the City of Houston and the Taipei Economic Office in Houston on the Mayor’s Teachers’ Day Excellency Award.

In 1999, Chamber members accompanied Mayor Lee P. Brown on his visit to Taiwan to promote trade between Houston and Taiwan. At the reception given by the Foreign Minister of Taiwan, Mayor Brown paid special tribute to the hard working Taiwanese immigrants who have contributed to the City of Houston economically and culturally.

In search of further recognition and understanding from the mainstream media, TCC participated in Channel 8 (PBS) fund raising event in April 1999. It was the first time that the Taiwanese and Asian community jointly coordinated their contributions and support for public television.

Special Thanks

Article submitted by Jackson Chang & the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce.

International Frontier –Eberto “Tiko” Amador

Each month the International Newsletter focuses on a Houstonian who has made an indelible mark on our city through outstanding contributions and services to the growth of Houston as an international city.



Eberto Amador

A leader in Houston's Latin-American community, Mr. Eberto “Tiko” Amador has served in a variety of roles in the local business

and non-profit arenas for 25 years. A former consul of Colombia in Houston, Mr. Amador holds a B.S. in petroleum engineering from Universidad de America in Colombia, and a M.S. in environmental engineering from the University of Houston.

Raised in Colombia, Mr. Amador is a world traveler who has lived in Angola, Brazil, France and Spain. “Colombia has become a country with soaring industries, a stable economy and vibrant cities like Bogota and Cartagena. One of the most beautiful cities in Latin America, Cartagena is an elegant port town cut by cobbled alleys and bougainvillea shrouded balconies,” according to Amador.

Mr. Amador is the principal engineer and business development director of the Latin American region of CH2M HILL, an 18,000-employee engineering, procurement, construction, and environmental services company in Houston. He has represented the firm in a number of significant environmental, energy and service projects in Latin America where his responsibilities included business development, technical management and quality control.

Since childhood, Mr. Amador has been involved in civic activities to help the needs of low-income communities, in programs promoting Latin American culture and in fund raising events for non-

profit educational and arts organizations. He has also served as director of the Institute of Hispanic Culture of Houston, Colombian Folkloric Ballet, Latin American Festival and the Colombian Young Professionals Association; and as a panelist for the Cultural Arts Council of Houston and Harris County. Additionally, he was the executive director and producer of “Colombia Unica,” a full-length folkloric extravaganza presented at the Hobby Center.

A devoted father of two college-educated sons, Mr. Amador enjoys his two-year-old granddaughter, jogging in Memorial Park and snow skiing in Colorado. In his many travels, Mr. Amador has noticed that the perception of Houston is as “a space-age city with lofty skyscrapers, the best medical care center in the world and excellent educational institutions. It is all true!”

Often interviewed on radio and television stations, Mr. Amador was one of the 48 Latinos selected in past years as Profile of the Week, a program organized by Telemundo-Channel 47 and the Houston Chronicle, to transmit a pro-community message. “Houston has become a multicultural city,” he said. “One has only to visit a shopping mall to observe the variety of languages spoken and taste the multitude of foods. I am happy to have friends from around the world, and experience their cultures.”

-By Mary Jane Wakefield

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**Next Submission
Deadline:
November 20, 2006**

October 2006 Event Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Venue/Contact	
Oct. 1	6:15pm	A Thousand Lights for Peace Gandhi Day	Venue:	City Hall
			Contact:	713-247-2002
Oct.1	6:30pm	Chinese Civic Center: 57 th Chinese National Day Gala	Venue:	Westin Galleria Hotel
			Contact:	713-772-1133
Oct. 2	11:30am-1:30pm	Center for Houston's Future: Houston Club Immigration Debate	Venue:	Houston Club
			Contact:	713-225-1661
Oct. 2	7:00pm-8:00pm	Brilliant Lecture Series: Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan	Venue:	Sarofim Hall, Hobby Ctr.
			Contact:	713-355-2525
Oct. 4	1:30pm-3:00pm	Greater Houston Partnership: State of the World Trade Organization with Ambassador Rufus Yerxa	Venue:	GHP
			Contact:	713-844-0261
Oct. 4	4:00pm-6:00pm	Greater Houston Partnership: International Connection series featuring Taiwan	Venue:	GHP
			Contact:	713-844-0262
Oct. 5	7:30am	Houston Networking News: Lead Exchange Breakfast	Venue:	Amazon Grill
			Contact:	281-778-6661
Oct. 5	11:30am	British Consulate-General: Roundtable Lunch with the Managing Director of Business of UK Trade and Investment, Brian Shaw	Venue:	Treviso Restaurant
			Contact:	713-659-6270
Oct. 5	8:30am-2:00pm	National All American Business Alliance: Business Conference	Venue:	HCC Auditorium
			Contact:	832-615-3072
Oct. 5	5:30pm-7:30pm	Asian Chamber of Commerce: Building Fund Kick-Off	Venue:	Hilton Garden Inn
			Contact:	713-782-7222
Oct. 6	7:15am-9:00am	Houston Technology Center: Technology Champions Meeting	Venue:	HTC
			Contact:	713-658-1750
Oct. 6	3:00pm-4:30pm	Emmett Company & Consulate General of India Houston: Ancient Wisdom in Modern Business	Venue:	Three Post Oak Central
			Contact:	713-521-9339
Oct. 7	9:00am-4:00pm	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Series of Training of the Hispanic Businessman "First Step: How to Begin a Business" (in Spanish)	Venue:	UH SBDC
			Contact:	713-752-8480
Oct. 7	6:30pm-9:00pm	Yellow Magazine: October 2006 Issue Release Party	Venue:	Peel Gallery
			Contact:	832-620-8532
Oct. 9	11:30am-1:30pm	Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce & World Affairs Council: Iraq-The Ambassador's Perspective	Venue:	Houstonian Hotel
			Contact:	713-880-8168
Oct. 10	11:45am-1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: State of the Senate, featuring U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson	Venue:	Hyatt Regency Hotel
			Contact:	713-844-3682

Oct. 10	6:30pm-8:30pm	Italy-America Chamber of Commerce & Festari for Men: “Roman Style Wine, Food & Fashion”	Venue: Contact:	1712 Post Oak Blvd 713-626-9303
Oct. 11	10:00am-11:30am	The Asian Chamber of Commerce: Perception is Reality seminar	Venue: Contact:	Westin Oaks Hotel 281-859-8188
Oct. 11	11:30am-1:15pm	The Asian Chamber of Commerce: “Self Image Psychology”	Venue: Contact:	Westin Oaks Hotel 713-782-7222
Oct. 11	6:00pm-7:30pm	World Affairs Council: Between Hamas and Hizbollah--Issues and Challenges for Israel and the United States	Venue: Contact:	The Junior League 713-522-7811
Oct. 11	6:30pm-7:00pm	Ramadan Celebration	Venue: Contact:	City Hall Reflection Pool 713-247-2002
Oct. 11	--	Energy Systems Laboratory of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station & Texas Commission on Environmental Quality: Air Quality 2006—Energy Leadership & Emissions Reduction Conference	Venue: Contact:	Hilton UH Hotel 979-458-0675
Oct. 12	8:00am-4:00pm	Houston Minority Business Council: Expo 2006	Venue: Contact:	George R. Brown 713-782-7222
Oct. 12	7:00pm	Asia Society Texas Lecture: M.P. Bhandara—“Pakistan: In the Line of Fire?”	Venue: Contact:	JW Marriott 713-439-0051 x 19
Oct. 12	--	United Nations Association, Houston Chapter: UN Day Celebration Dinner	Venue: Contact:	Racquet Club 713-667-7044
Oct. 13	9:00am	Greater Houston Partnership: Airport and Port Facilities Committee	Venue: Contact:	GHP 713-844-3658
Oct. 13	7:00pm	United Russian American Association Bilingual: Russian Ball	Venue: Contact:	Chateau Crystal 281-389-7914
Oct. 13	7:00pm	12 th Annual African American Business Achievement Pinnacle Awards: “Celebrating 70 Years of African American Business Excellence”	Venue: Contact:	The Houston Club 281-213-9554
Oct. 14	9:00am-4:00pm	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: series of Training of the Hispanic Businessman (in Spanish)	Venue: Contact:	UH SBDC 713-752-8480
Oct. 14	--	Sri Lankan American Association: 4 th Annual Cricket Match	Venue: Contact:	Tom Bass Cricket Grounds 281-785-2578
Oct. 16	11:30am	Houston Airport System: China Airlines Cargo Luncheon	Venue: Contact:	Wortham Center Foyer 281-233-1723
Oct. 16	Noon-1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: Environment Luncheon Featuring State Senator Kip Averitt & State Representative Robert Puente	Venue: Contact:	Four Seasons Hotel 713-844-0256
Oct. 16- Oct. 17	--	City of Houston Mayor’s Office: Shanghai, Nanhui District Delegation	Venue: Contact:	-- MOIAD

Oct. 16- Oct. 19	--	EX-IM Bank of the U.S.: U.S-South Africa Power Industry Supplier Conference	Venue: -- Contact: 281-721-0470
Oct. 17	11:30am- 1:30pm	World Affairs Council: James A. Baker III, "An Unexpected Public Life-- Its Adventures and Lessons"	Venue: Hyatt Regency Hotel Contact: 713-522-7811
Oct. 17	11:30am	Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce: "The Norway Connection: Chevron's Growing Partnerships in Norwegian Assets and Technology"	Venue: Houstonian Hotel Contact: 713-526-6222
Oct. 17- Oct. 23	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: Beijing, Municipal Government IT Delegation	Venue: -- Contact: MOIAD
Oct. 17	7:30am- 9:00am	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Networking Breakfast and Mini-Trade Fair	Venue: Westin Oaks Contact: 713-644-7070
Oct. 18	11:00am- 1:00pm	Houston Chamber Alliance Luncheon-- "Let's Give 'um Something to Talk About"	Venue: InterContinental Hotel Contact: 713-782-7222
Oct. 18	7:00pm	El Minuto de Dios: "El Banquete Del Millon" event	Venue: Doubletree Hotel Contact: 281-854-2314
Oct. 19	12:00pm- 1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: State of the Port luncheon	Venue: InterContinental Hotel Contact: 713-844-0258
Oct. 19	12:00pm- 1:00pm	Houston International Protocol Alliance: Learn at Lunch—Senegal	Venue: Visitors Center Theater Contact: 713-247-2200
Oct. 19	5:00pm- 7:00pm	Center for Houston's Future: American Leadership Forum hosts Immigration Panel	Venue: Upper Kirby District Contact: 713-807-1253
Oct. 19	6:00pm- 7:30pm	World Affairs Council: "Cuba after Castro"	Venue: The Junior League Contact: 713-522-7811
Oct. 19- Oct. 20	--	Border Energy Forum XII, United States-Mexico: Tampico Tamaulipas	Venue: Tampico Contact: 1-800-998-4GLO
Oct. 20	12:30pm	The Asian Chamber of Commerce: 5 th Annual Golf Tournament	Venue: Bear Creek Golf Course Contact: 281-782-7222
Oct. 21	9:00am- 12:00pm	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Series of Training of the Hispanic Businessman, "How to Obtain a Loan for a Business"	Venue: UH SBDC Contact: 713-752-8480
Oct. 21- Oct. 22	--	Dragon Boat Regatta	Venue: TBD Contact: 713-966-5878
Oct. 23	7:30am- 9:00am	Center for Houston's Future: Park Perspectives; The Economic, Health, and Quality of Life Benefits—Will Rogers	Venue: GHP Contact: 713-844-9325
Oct. 23	6:00pm- 7:30pm	World Affairs Council: Party of God-Inside Hizbollah	Venue: Museum of Fine Arts Contact: 713-522-7811
Oct. 23- Oct. 25	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: Vice Governor of Jinshan District, Shanghai	Venue: -- Contact: MOIAD

Oct. 23- Oct. 27	--	U.S. Department of Commerce: “Women in Business Mission to Europe”	Venue: Contact:	Netherlands & Belgium 713-844-3661
Oct. 24- Oct. 25	--	Houston Technology Center: 2006 Infragard Houston Conference	Venue: Contact:	HTC 713-658-1750
Oct. 24 & Oct. 26	8:45am- 12:00pm	Greater Houston Partnership: Export-Import Overview seminar series	Venue: Contact:	GHP 713-844-3600
Oct. 25	10:00am- 12:00pm	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Professional Services Seminar	Venue: Contact:	University Club 713-644-7070
Oct. 25	12:00pm- 1:30pm	Transportation and Infrastructure Advisory Committee and Greater Houston Partnership: State of METRO address	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Americas Hotel 713-844-3658
Oct. 25	5:30pm- 7:30pm	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: After Hours Networking Mixer	Venue: Contact:	Hacienda Del Sol 713-644-7070
Oct. 26	11:30am- 1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: 2006 Quarterly Meeting, featuring Drayton McLane	Venue: Contact:	InterContinental Hotel 713-844-3682
Oct. 28	11:00am- 10:00pm	American Turkish Association: Turkish Festival 2006	Venue: Contact:	Jones Plaza www.atahouston.org
Oct. 28	9:00am- 12:00pm	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Series of Training of the		

